The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—*James Freeman Clarke.*

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THE CHEERFUL LETTER.

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THE HOPE OF MAN.

The past is dark with sin and shame,
The future dim with doubt and fear;
But, Father, yet we praise thy name,
Whose guardian love is always near.

For man has striven, ages long,
With faltering steps to come to thee;
And in each purpose high and strong,
The influence of thy grace could see.

He could not breathe an earnest prayer
But thou wast kinder than he dreamed,
As age by age brought hopes more fair,
And nearer still thy kingdom seemed.

But never rose within his breast
A trust so calm and deep as now:
Shall not the weary find a rest?
Father, Preserver, answer thou!

'Tis dark around, 'tis dark above,
But through the shadow streams the sun:
We cannot doubt thy certain love;
And man's true aim shall yet be won.

—*T. W. Higginson.*

PATIENCE.

Let Patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. JAMES i. 4.

Among the means of cherishing patience, I would first name a deep and enduring sense of the love of God and of the merciful purpose of all his dispensations. This we all confess in words; but we must feel it. Our theoretical faith is right and sound; the great object is to bring our feelings up to the standard of our avowed belief. This faith must work itself into the whole texture of our souls, pervade and fill our hearts, and be as the life-blood of our inward being. "God is love,"—"God is our Father,"—these divine words must enter into our consciousness, be inwardly digested and assimilated. And this can best be done in those early, happy days which are bathed in the Creator's smile, on all whose moments hang the dewdrops of his blessing. This needed faith in a fatherly Providence parents should teach their children, when they are full of joy; and the young, prosperous, and always happy should grow into it more and more in daily adoration and thanksgiving. We should look back upon the way in which our Father has led us, and mark its special deliverance and favors. We should look around us, and trace back through their earthly source to their eternal fountain the streams of mercy flowing hourly upon our homes and our daily walks. There has been, there is, enough in the life of each of us, if we would only ponder upon it, to draw forth the confession, with gratitude too full for utterance,—"God has nourished me as a child,—in ways and times without number he has revealed himself as my Father and my friend,—I individually am the distinct

object of his care and love. How precious are thy thoughts of mercy towards me! how great is the sum of them!—should I count them, they are more in number than the sands of the sea."

This spirit will give us *patience* when the evil days come. We shall know that disease and affliction are but altered forms of mercy, ordained with kind purpose and for a blesséd ministry; that outward trial is sent to heal inward disease, to establish the soul in firmer health and fuller strength, to shed into the peace of God and the spirit of heaven. We shall lean in faith upon a Father, whose ways seem dark to us only because we are children and fall short of our Father's wisdom. We shall calmly yield ourselves to the guidance of him whose appointed way must needs be the surest, safest path to heaven. Our trust will be confirmed by exercise and deepened by experience, so that every new period of trial will give to patience its more and more perfect work. Our early trials, if submissively borne, will leave in our hearts a work of grace, which we can mark and recognize. We shall see and know that they made us better,—that they made our prayers more fervent and more constant, our love to man more tender and enduring, our sympathies quicker and stronger, our tempers more meek and gentle, our tastes more pure and spiritual.

No one can feel more fully than I do, that God has placed us in a good world, and has put within the reach of us all a large preponderance of happiness over misery. With most of us life rolls on calmly through childhood and early youth, and for long portions of our later years. But few approach middle life without some experience of sorrow,—seasons of sickness and infirmity, heavy disappointments, weary vigils with suffering parents, children, and kindred,—times when the floods lift their angry voice and the billows break over us,—times when nothing seems stable but the throne of God and the hope of heaven. And these visitations of Providence are not momentary, so that they can be met by a sudden and defiant effort; but they are prolonged, continuous, spreading out into the future, and the end is not yet, but is beyond our foresight and calculation. For some, also, the sun is darkened, long before mid-day; and they, though not without kind reliefs and rich blessings, must move on beneath clouds which only the resurrection morning will scatter. Poverty, desolation, or chronic infirmity is their appointed sphere of duty, their only portion, till they exchange it for Abraham's bosom and the inheritance of the righteous. And these darker scenes and portions must be met either in ceaseless discontent, murmuring or distrust, or in that spirit of quiet, trustful patience, which says, "Father, not my will, but thine, be done!" But for those that murmur, blessings sent and comforts left are wasted, and there hangs over their dwellings and about their spirits an impenetrable gloom; while to the patient and confiding soul light arises in darkness,—the cloud cannot hang so thick and heavy but that rays of divine love struggle through its fissures and fringe its edges,—it is spanned by the bow of promise, with the inscription, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."—*Andrew P. Peabody.*

THE STILL HOUR.

Lord, it belongs not to my care,
Whether I die or live:
To love and serve thee is my share,
And this thy grace must give.
If life be long, I will be glad,
That I may long obey;
If short, yet why should I be sad
To soar to endless day?

Christ leads me through no darker rooms
Than he went through before;
He that into God's kingdom comes,
Must enter by his door.
Come, Lord, when grace has made me meet
Thy blessed face to see;
For, if thy work on earth be sweet,
What will thy glory be?

—*R. Baxter.*

Our fathers believed in special answers to prayer. They were not stumbled by the objection about the inflexibility of the laws of nature, because they had the idea that, when the Creator of the world promised to answer human prayers, he probably understood the laws of nature as well as they did. At any rate, the laws of nature were his affair, and not theirs. They were men, very apt, as the Duke of Wellington said, to "look to their marching orders,"—which, being found to read, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God," they did it. "They looked unto him and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed."

Is it not possible that He who made the world may have established laws for prayer as invariable as those for the sowing of seed and raising of grain? Is it not as legitimate a subject of inquiry, when petitions are not answered, which of these laws has been neglected?—*Harriet Beecher Stowe.*

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB.

[*Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 2 Kensington Park, Roxbury, Mass.*]

BEFORE WRITING TO ASK FOR BOOKS, DO NOT FAIL TO READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.

1. If you see a book offered in the Book Club which you desire to read, write directly to the address of the person who offers it. If she receives more than one request, the addresses of those to whom she cannot respond may be sent to the Book Club, and the request printed there.

2. If you have a book or paper to give or lend, write directly to the Book Club as above, and offer it with your address.

3. In sending a book, enclose, when possible, a P.O. card for response, already addressed.

4. In thanking the person who has sent you a book, always mention the name of the book. Say, "I have received 'Black Beauty,'" or whatever the book may be; not, "I have received *that book*." This saves a busy person a good deal of time. Otherwise she must consult her list constantly to find out what book has been received safely.

N.B.—Do not send books to the Book Club. Send only the *offer* to the club. To send the *book* involves packing it *twice* and paying postage *twice*, where once would suffice.

Those who offer books frequently receive notes, saying, "Shall I return you this book, or keep it, or pass it on?" *Unless otherwise stated*, all books offered in this department are *given*, and the postage paid.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking, "*Shall* I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it: else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you *have* sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send these to the Book Club to be printed there.

Please write only on one side of the paper in sending lists or letters to the secretary.

OFFERS.

Will any mother who would like to have "Gentle Measures in Training the Young," by Jacob Abbott, or any one who would like "Black Beauty," address Miss Langmaid, 71 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.?

Mrs. A. B. Crandall, 14 Pembroke Street, Boston, Mass., would be glad to learn address of a young student who would like to receive the *Scientific Monthly* and other scientific reading.

Any Sunday-school wishing a set of service books will please address Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 2 Kensington Park, Roxbury, Mass.

The Cambridge Branch offers the following books. Address Miss M. A. Vinal, 20 Lowell Street, Cambridge, Mass. "A Memorial of Alice and Phœbe Cary"; "Selections from Fénelon"; "Phantastes," George MacDonald; "Broken Lights," F. P. Cobbe; "Woman's Right to Labor"; "Sermons," Stopford Brooke; "Royal Truths," Beecher; "Seed-Grain"; Noyes's "Translation of the New Testament"; "A Compendium of American Literature"; "Sermons," W. J. Potter; "George Eliot," George Willis Cooke; "Essays," Emerson; "Plutarch's Lives"; "Spare Hours," Dr. John Brown; "French Home Life"; "Familiar Quotations"; "King Lear"; "Window-gardening"; "Dreamthorp" (essays), Alexander Smith; "A Man in Earnest," R. Collyer; "Nathaniel Hawthorne and his Wife," a biography; "Letters from Palmyra," Ware; Milman's "History of the Jews"; "The Friendships of Women," Alger; "American Religions," Weiss; "Hours of Thought on Sacred Things," Martineau; "Sunday Stories"; "A Living Faith," Merriam; Cruden's Concordance.

The following books have been somewhat worn, but are whole, and may be useful in a school where the pupils are not able to buy books. There are several copies of some of them. "Latin Grammar," Allen and Greenough; "Latin Reader," Andrews; "First Latin Book," Andrews; "Latin Grammar," Andrews and Stoddard; "Cæsar's Commentaries," Anthon; "English Grammar," Brown-Goold; "Greek Grammar," Bullion; "Greek Grammar," Crosby; "Greek Lessons," Crosby; "Greek Reader," Felton; "Greek Grammar" (11 copies), Fisk; "Greek Exercises," Fisk; "First Latin Book" (6 copies), Harkness; "First Greek Book" (3 copies), Harkness; "English Grammar" (8 copies), Harvey; "Greek Reader" (11 copies), Jacobs (old edition); "Greek Grammar," Kühner; "Cæsar's Commentaries," Leverett; "First Book in Greek," McClintock; "Grammar of Modern Greek," Negris; "Greek Grammar," Papain; "German Grammar" (12 copies), Woodbury; "Latin Reader,"

Zumpt (old edition). Address, Miss E. G. Huidekoper, 502 Chestnut Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

REQUESTS.

[*Read directions at beginning of Book Club before writing.*]

Those who send offers and requests for the Book Club will do us a kindness by noting the following suggestions: 1. Please write very clearly. 2. Do not use a pencil. 3. Do not use contractions, especially names of States (as Cal. and Col. for California, Colorado). 4. Write on one side only of the paper. 5. Do not forget to give your full address. (The State is now and then omitted.) 6. Do not send matter for the Book Club to Miss Clarke, but to Mrs. Nichols, the Book Club Secretary.

Those who write to us for the first time must send the name and address of a minister as a reference. Without that the request will not be printed.

1. It has been almost two years since I have heard from any of the *Cheerful Letter* friends, excepting two. I would be very glad to receive a copy of Longfellow's "Poems," also copies of *Everybody's Magazine* and the *New England Magazine*, if any one has them to pass on. Mrs. A. J. McQueen, Rowland, North Carolina.

2. Rev. W. A. Alleyn, Custer, Michigan, asks for the poetical works of Longfellow, Whittier, and Bryant, and a Latin-English dictionary.

3. Mrs. Harriet C. Tate, Shask, Yell County, Arkansas, will be especially glad of any reading. She is not well, and her husband has worn his life out preaching in the West, and is now an invalid.

4. Mrs. F. E. Irvine, Chesapeake, Missouri, writes: "This is a most needy place,—large families with very limited means. Any reading for old or young, especially children from fourteen years down, also Mother's teaching on good manners. Even school books are needed. We have a Sunday-school, but no papers. It will be blessed to receive."

5. I would be very glad to receive some reading, and will pass it on to my friends who have nothing. I would be glad to receive "Self-Raised" and "The English Orphans." I am very lonely at times. Address Mrs. E. L. Jones, Mansville, Indian Territory.

6. I write to ask some of the *Cheerful Letter* friends to send me some school books for a young girl who has not had an opportunity to attend school much, but is very bright and intelligent; and I will arrange for her to go to school this term if she can get some books. I have already provided her with some of those she will need; but she still needs Maury's "Elementary Geography," Holmes's "Fourth Reader," Elwood's "Primary Arithmetic," "Language Lessons" (Hyde's Two-book Course, Book One), "History of United States" (Hansell's Primary), vertical writing copy-books, first six numbers. I have been a member of the Cheerful Letter Book Club since 1894. I have been very much cheered and helped through its agency. The name of the young girl is Mattie N. Anderson, Gold Hill, North Carolina. I would be glad, too, if some one would send some books to Robert Henry Anderson, Fork Church, Davie County, North Carolina. He is a bright little fellow, eight years old, who lives in a lonely place in the country with his father. He has no mother or any women friends to do anything for him. He is very cheerful, and has an abundance of grit and pluck. Mrs. Mary A. Bosch, Gold Hill, North Carolina.

7. Some time ago I sent a request for reading matter for my sister, whose health is very delicate. Since then I have received several papers, magazines, etc. I cannot find words to express our appreciation of them. We are away out here, far from kindred, and time passes very slowly. Will you kindly send reading to my friend, Mrs. Bertha V. Allen, Texico, New Mexico? She has consumption, and has gone there for her health with her husband and three small children. I would greatly appreciate it if some one will send me "Ben Hur." (Mrs.) Marion Wilkerson, Garvin, Texas.

8. Mrs. D. E. Howse, Glenzaida, Alabama, asks for a Philosophy, and Holmes's "First" and "Second Reader."

9. Miss Emma Holder, Blackstone, North Carolina, an invalid having the care of two children, six and eight years, asks for read-

ing for herself and picture books for the children.

10. Mary Brown, Mayodan, North Carolina, sixteen years of age, would like suitable reading.

11. Mrs. Hattie Scott, Danville, Arkansas, a widow with one little daughter, will be grateful for any reading.

12. Miss Grace E. Tennyson, Apache, Oklahoma, will be pleased to receive any books or magazines.

13. I am one of your new members, living far out in the country. I should be very glad of some magazines,—*Lippincott, Cosmopolitan, Munsey's*,—or any of the newer books. Will some one please send me "Ships that pass in the Night," Beatrice Harraden; "My Novel," Lytton, and any of Marion Harland's books, also copies of the *Delineator*, beginning with the June number, 1903, and copies of *Life*. I will gladly lend to others anything that I may receive. Address Mrs. Thomas H. Drummond, Gidsville, Amherst County, Virginia.

14. As I have changed my home at Cayuta for a home in Endicott, I miss the *Cheerful Letter*, which I enjoyed very much. It was sent to my daughter, Mrs. Nellie Mabee. Endicott is all planned for a city, and is about two years old and growing rapidly, booming with manufactories, a large shoe factory that employs a great many men and women, and the largest tannery in the world, under the same roof. We came here to make a home for our son who is in business here, and we keep other boarders also; and I think your paper and some of your books would do much good in our household. The *Ladies' Home Journal* and a paper called *Sabbath Reading*, also books,—"Stepping Heavenward," "Imitation of Christ," by Thomas à Kempis,—or any other books would be gladly received by others as well as myself. This seems like asking a great favor, but I will gladly pass them on to young people that need good reading. My daughter has a little girl, and your *Cheerful Letter* gives such good advice to mothers. I think she, too, would be glad of some good books. Mrs. A. S. Brown, Endicott, New York.

15. I have already explained how I first got reading matter which has been to me one of God's great blessings, and it is my great desire to be remembered by the Christians who do this great work. To me it has been a great help. I am old and lonely and cannot attend church, and, when Sunday comes, then I enjoy my reading most of all. It tells me of others like myself who are poor, afflicted, and friendless, who perhaps have more to bear than I do, yet they have patience to bear their burdens; and it gives me courage to bear mine. Please forgive my not writing oftener. I sometimes think I shall have to give it up altogether, but I still try to do the best I can. I am poor, have no income at all, and work for my board for my son. When my strength and health fails me, I will trust in the God who has never failed me. Mrs. A. M. Kiger, 121 North 4th Street, Springfield, Illinois.

16. I want to send my thanks for all reading matter received in the past from *Cheerful Letter* friends. We appreciated it, I assure you; and it was all passed on to others. I could find places for double the amount of magazines and books, there are so many eager for them. I now want to ask some one to send me current numbers of some magazines the coming year. I would be glad to get *The Strand, Cosmopolitan, St. Nicholas*, or *Ladies' Home Journal*. I would also be glad of Shakespeare's works for myself. I lend the magazines to several families in succession, then give them away, and the ones I give them to pass them on, so you see they do much good. Any books, and especially illustrated papers, are very welcome. Mrs. Cora A. Hoskinson, Nottawa, St. Joe County, Michigan.

17. It has been about three months since I received a card telling me that my name was accepted. During this time I have received nothing, save one letter from G. V. Mudge, which I answered, but have heard nothing more from him. I wish to ask for one Hansel's "Higher History of the United States," a good text-book on rhetoric, and a good magazine. As I am going to school I will have to change my post-office from Carriker to Unionville. So please address me T. E. Measamer, Unionville, North Carolina.

18. I would like very much to have back numbers of the *Scientific American* and Sup-

plement, also a copy of the "Official Gazette." I am a boy fifteen years old. Frank E. Smith, R. F. D. No. 3, Sterling, Kansas.

19. I wish to say how much I appreciate the kindness of those who have sent me reading matter, and how I have been pleased and benefited. I have been especially helped by reading "Gentle Measures." I wish every parent could read it. I would like to have Wood's "Natural History" and "Mother Goose" for my children, and also some good reading for Raleigh Simes (aged ten years), who is an orphan and very fond of reading. His post-office is Downsville, Caldwell County, North Carolina. Ella E. Looper, Petra, Caldwell County, North Carolina.

20. Miss Jane Calhoon, Persinger, North Carolina, will be glad of any magazines.

21. I have seen the *Cheerful Letter* for the first time; and, knowing what its object is, I would feel very grateful for a little good reading; would so much like any of E. P. Roe's books, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," or any of Thackeray's books. It seems to me I would enjoy almost any reading in this lonely mountainous country, especially now, as winter will soon be here. Angela Dunphy, Wisdom, Montana.

THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL.

JUNO'S SCHOOL (*continued*).

Juno is not Discouraged.

Juno felt, for a time, very much distressed at the disappointment of all the fond hopes that she had cherished in respect to her class. She had been at first quite sanguine in her expectations, as indeed most Sunday-school teachers are, before they begin.

They imagine that everything will go smoothly and easily with them in their work, provided they only give the necessary time and attention to it. They seldom anticipate difficulty, disappointment, and apparent failure.

But one of the most valuable and precious results of the Sunday-school system is the training which it gives to teachers themselves, in leading them to bear up manfully under the difficulties and trials which are almost sure to come, sooner or later, to all.

Juno was sitting at the window of her little room, thinking of the breaking up of her class, and of the failure of her hopes. The tears came into her eyes. She presently clasped her hands together, and looking up, prayed to God to give her strength and perseverance and guidance, that she might go on.

"Jesus was not discouraged," she said to herself, "when all his disciples forsook him and fled; and why should I be?"

Just then Juno heard a gentle knocking at her door. It was Georgie.

"I believe I have a letter for you, Juno," said he. "I came pretty near forgetting it."

So saying, Georgie produced a small letter, or rather envelope, containing what seemed to be a letter. On opening the envelope, Juno found a card. The name of Mary Osborne was printed on one side, and on the other was written in a very neat and pretty hand the following:

RULE FOR A SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER.

Take but little notice of the faults of your pupils, except to show that you observe them. On the other hand, notice particularly and commend everything that is good, even if it is at first very little. What children require is, not scolding and punishment for what is wrong, but encouragement, and a gentle and gradual training in what is right.

"I'll follow that advice," said Juno to herself, as she put the card away. "I'll take good care of the good children that stayed to the end, and I won't scold the others, or find fault with them at all, but see if I can't entice them to come back, by treating them kindly. But I must have some rewards. Let me see! What shall I have for rewards?"

On reflecting upon this subject, Juno concluded that the best thing she could have for rewards would be apples.

"Which kind shall you take, Juno," asked Georgie, "the golden balls or the rosies?"

"I might give them sometimes one and sometimes the other," said Juno. "I know what I'll do. I'll have the rosy apples as rewards for attendance, and the golden balls for behavior."

Juno will not discourage her Scholars.

A few days later, as Juno was walking along the street of the village, she saw

Pompling standing on the sidewalk a little way before her. He was looking up into a tree, thinking he saw a bird's nest there, and wondering whether he could climb up and get it.

Juno was pretty near, before he saw her. The recollection of his escapade from school immediately rushed upon his mind, and his first impulse was to run away. He accordingly turned, and set off at full speed.

"Stop, Pompling," said Juno. "Stop a moment. You have not got your apple."

Pompling, hearing the word apple, was arrested by it. He stopped running, and turned round as if to hear what more Juno had to say. At the same time he went on, walking backward, as if he still intended to make good his retreat.

"I owe you an apple, or at least half an apple," said Juno.

"What for?" asked Pompling.

"Come here," said Juno, beckoning to him. "Come here and I'll tell you."

"No," said Pompling, shaking his head, suspiciously, and still walking backward, as fast as Juno advanced, so as to keep at the same distance from her.

"You see," said Juno, "that I am going to have apples for the rewards in my school, —the rosies for attendance and the golden balls for good behavior. You stayed in my school like a good boy about half the time, and so you ought to have half of one of my rosies. I don't mind giving you a whole rosy, for I have no doubt you will come some day and stay half the time again."

"I'll come next Sunday, if you like," said Pompling.

"Well," said Juno, "and then I'll give you the apple."

Pompling, finding that the conversation was taking rather a friendly turn, had slackened his pace, so that by this time Juno had very nearly come up with him.

"What were you looking at up in that tree?" she asked.

"There's a bird's nest up there, I believe," said Pompling.

"Do you want to climb up and see?" said Juno.

"I can't climb up," said Pompling. "The lower branches are too high."

"Come back to the tree," said Juno, "and I'll lift you up till you can reach the lower branches."

So Juno held out her hand and Pompling gave her his, and they walked back to the tree together in the most friendly manner possible. Juno lifted Pompling up, or rather helped him up, by lifting and pushing, until he reached the lower limbs.

"There you are," said Juno. "I like to help you up to see a bird's nest, because I know you won't do anything to harm the little birds or frighten the old ones."

"No," said Pompling, "I won't hurt them."

"Once I knew a boy," said Juno, "who took the eggs out of a robin's nest and carried them off and broke them to pieces. And what do you think was the consequence of that?"

"The eagles came and picked his eyes out?" asked Pompling, guessing.

"No," said Juno, "it was not quite so bad as that. But the next year there were four less robins in that town than there would have been, if he had not destroyed those eggs, and so much less singing."

By this time Pompling had reached the nest. Just before he reached it the mother bird who was there sitting upon her eggs heard him coming, and flew away. Pompling called out to Juno as soon as he was high enough to see, and said that he had found the nest, and that there were four eggs in it.

"Four speckled eggs," said he, "and pretty big ones."

"That's exactly right," said Juno. "They ought to be speckled, and there ought to be four. By and by there will be four little birds in the nest; that is, if the mother bird does not get frightened and forsake it. Come down now, softly, and she will come back, and the next time I come by here, if you are here, I will hoist you up again and let you see if the eggs are hatched."

"I'll bring the rosy for you next Sunday afternoon," added Juno.

"Yes," said Pompling, "I'll come."

"And there is something I want you to do for me," said Juno, "if you will."

"Well," said Pompling, "I'll do it."

"There were two other scholars of mine that stayed in the school like good children half of the time, and then they got tired and went home. You know them. One

was Trip and the other was Sally Lane. I want you to go and find them, and tell them that they were good children to stay so patiently half of the time, and that I have a reward for them, half an apple apiece. If they had stayed the whole time they would have had a whole apple. But I don't blame them for getting tired."

Observe, Juno did not say that she did not blame the children for leaving the school without permission, but only for feeling tired, for which last they certainly were not to blame.

It may seem strange to children accustomed to know what good behavior is that Juno, in dealing with the two little truants, who ran away from school for half the time, should reward them for the little time they stayed, instead of punishing them for going away. She did this simply in obedience to Mary Osborne's advice, which was that she should seize upon the good which she could find in her children, and build upon that, taking little notice of the bad, except to show that she observed it. Accordingly, as the children had sat still and patiently for a quarter of an hour, she thought she might properly consider that as something good, and so offer a reward for it.

In fact, such a course was really right and proper. Such children as these, who have never been to school, and have never been taught the principles of duty in any way, or the nature of right and wrong, are to be considered and treated almost as if they were little animals, and it is not reasonable to expect from them much more self-control than you would look for in a kitten, or a young colt, that you were trying to teach. If we find in them *any* degree of willing effort, or self-denial, however little, and however transient it may be, it is a good beginning, and must be encouraged and fostered, and it will grow and increase, and in time will lead to a complete transformation of the character.—*Jacob Abbott.*

(*To be continued.*)

NATURAL HISTORY.

SPIDERS.

"For the careful collector of insects, a country roadside is always a fruitful field. Here live all the insects, for there are roadside ponds, brooks, orchards, and forests, as well as meadows. . . . Any one that loves the study of insect life is sure to be interested in the habits of spiders, although these creatures are not true insects; and there is no better place for observing them than by roadsides. . . . Even the most careful observers seldom realize what an immense number of spider-webs are spun upon the grass by roadsides. But occasionally these webs are made visible in the early morning by the dew which has condensed upon them. At such times we may see the grass covered by an almost continuous carpet of silk. The greater number of the webs seen at such times are of the form which we term funnel-webs. They consist of a concave sheet of silk, with a funnel-shaped tube at one side, and numerous lines extending in all directions to the supporting spears of grass. The tube serves as a hiding-place for the owner of the web; from this retreat the spider runs out on the upper surface of the web to seize any insect that alights upon it. The tube opens below, near the roots of the grass, so that the spider can escape from it if a too formidable insect comes upon the web.

"Those spiders that build nets which consist of a framework of radiating lines upon which is fastened a thread in a spiral manner are called the orb-weavers. There are many species of these, each differing somewhat in habits, but the more general features of their webs are quite similar. No more interesting subject for study can be found than the methods of work of these spiders. . . . Find a completed web, and examine carefully the silk of which it is composed. With a small stick touch one of the turns of the spiral line, and observe the result when you attempt to take the stick away. In a similar manner touch one of the radiating lines, and also some of the lines that form the irregular outer frame work. You will discover that there are two kinds of silk in the web of an orb-weaver, which differ in two important characteristics. . . . Find a partially completed web and observe that a temporary spiral stay-line is used in the construction of the web before the application of the permanent spiral line. . . . Throw an insect into a completed web and make notes on the way in which the spider captures and destroys its prey. If the web be that of one of the larger orb-weavers, a large in-

sect, as a locust or grasshopper, can be used. . . . On dewy mornings the webs of the orb-weavers are often heavily loaded with dew, so that adjacent turns of the spiral thread adhere together.

"There are certain spiders that make long journeys through the air like an aëronaut. These ballooning spiders are frequently very abundant, especially in warm autumn days. At such times innumerable threads can be seen streaming from fences, from bushes, and the tips of stalks of grass, or floating through the air. The ballooning spider climbs to some elevated point, which may be merely the tip of a stalk of grass, and then, standing on the tips of its feet, lifts its body as high as it can, and spins out a thread of silk. This thread is carried up and away by a current of air. When the thread is long enough, the force of the air current on it is sufficient to buoy the spider up. It then lets go its hold with its feet and sails away. That these spiders travel long distances in this manner has been shown by the fact that they have been seen floating through the air at sea far from land.

"Although the house spiders are the most familiar members of the cobweb-weavers, the greater number of species spin their webs in the fields on bushes. These webs usually consist of a flat or curved sheet, under which the spider hangs back downward. This sheet is supported by threads running in all directions to the neighboring objects. Frequently there is a large number of these supporting threads above the web, which serve the additional purpose of impeding the flight of insects and causing them to fall. Some of these spiders do not remain in their webs, but have a nest in a neighboring crack or corner, from which they rush to seize their prey. And sometimes there is a funnel-shaped tube leading to this nest. But these spiders differ from the true funnel-web weavers in running back downward on the lower side of their web. The cobweb-weavers are small spiders with unusually slim legs.

"There are certain large, dark-colored, hairy spiders that are common by roadsides, running over the ground or lurking under stones and fences. These spiders frequently attract attention by dragging after them a large gray ball; this is the egg-sac which the female carries about with her attached to her spinnerets. These spiders run swiftly, and as they depend on the use of their legs for the capture of their prey they are called running spiders. . . . The jumping spiders are of medium size, with a short body, and short, stout legs. They are common on plants, logs, fences, and the sides of buildings. They are very apt to attract attention by their peculiar appearance, their short, stout legs, bright colors, conspicuous eyes, and quick, jumping movements being very different from those of ordinary spiders. These self-possessed spiders are able to stare an ordinary observer out of countenance. They move sidewise or backward with great ease, and can jump a long distance. They stalk their prey, and make no webs except nests, in which they hide in winter or when moulting or laying eggs. There are certain spiders which are called crab-spiders, on account of the short and broad form of the body, and the curious fact that they can walk more readily sidewise or backward than forward. . . Most of the species are marked with gray and brown, like the bark upon which they live. Some species conceal themselves in flowers, where they lie in wait for their prey. These are brightly colored, like the flowers which they inhabit, so that insects visiting flowers may alight within reach of a spider before seeing it."—*John Henry Comstock's "Insect Life."*

BIOGRAPHY.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, afterward the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, was born at 24 Grosvenor Square, London, on the 28th of April, 1801. His mother was the daughter of the fourth Duke of Marlborough. His father was the brother of the fifth Earl of Shaftesbury, and succeeded to the title in 1811.

The childhood of the boy was a very sad one. His mother was engrossed in the pleasures of fashionable life; his father in the interests of politics. When in 1811 he, as sixth Lord Shaftesbury, became a member of the House of Lords he was made "Chairman of Committees," and retained that position for forty years.

Neglected by both parents, and left by them to grow up in the "high-and-dry

school" of religion, then prevailing, Lord Shaftesbury's biographer says, "one source of tender and helpful influence was preserved to him."

"There was in the household a faithful old servant, Maria Millis, who had been maid to young Ashley's mother when she was a girl at Blenheim, and who was now retained as housekeeper. She was a simple-hearted, loving, Christian woman. She formed a strong attachment to the gentle, serious child, and would take him on her knees and tell him Bible stories. It was her hand that touched the chords and awakened the first music of his spiritual life. Although not yet seven years old, there was in his heart a distinct yearning for God.

"She taught him a prayer—the first prayer he ever learned; a prayer which he never omitted to use, through all the trying days that were soon to come upon him. And in his old age, especially in times of sickness, he very frequently found himself repeating these simple words."

How little the good and modest woman could foresee the result of the little seed then sown! In the school life of the solitary boy this good influence preserved him from the dreadful corruption which prevailed around him; and in his later years it grew into a tree that bore fruit a hundred and a thousand fold.

At the age of seven, young Ashley went to school. Many of the schools of that day were "hot-beds of every kind of evil and mischief, where bullying and many other forms of evil and cruelty were permitted, if not encouraged; where might was right, and the lives of weak and timid boys were made almost intolerable." In the one to which he was sent, "evil of every kind was rampant; there was neither proper supervision nor proper food; cruel punishments were inflicted for slight offences; and great offences, such as bullying, foul language, were left unchecked."

The boy "lived in a state of constant terror from the cruelty of the older boys, and suffered exquisite misery for years through the neglect and inhumanity of the principal of the school in failing to provide sufficiently even the necessaries of life."

"Even in old age he would say: 'The memory of that place makes me shudder: it is repulsive to me even now. I think there never was such a wicked school before or since. The place was bad, wicked, filthy; and the treatment was starvation and cruelty.'"

Alas! even then a great sorrow was preparing for him. The motherly friend, the only real friend he had, the one who alone in the world cared for him and sympathized with him, was called to her rest.

"Without a soul on earth to whom he could go for comfort, he turned with a child's simple faith to the old book that she had loved, and spread his sorrows before the Heavenly Friend whom she had taught him to regard as full of pity and tenderness.

"In her will she left him her watch,—a handsome gold one,—and, until the day of his death, he never wore any other. He was fond even to the last of showing it, and would say, 'That was given to me by the best friend I ever had in the world.'

"Throughout the five years that he remained at the Manor House (School) he persevered in his habit of praying and reading the Bible, despite the sneers and opposition of his fellows; and he never forgot the lessons he had learned from Maria Millis.

"It was once the almost universal practice for parents to rule their children by severity and fear. . . . In the case of many, the severity of home was bearable, inasmuch as it was of short duration, and the return to school was hailed with delight as a welcome relief. In young Ashley's case, there was neither joy in going back to school nor joy in coming home. His parents had a mistaken idea of education, of parental authority, rights, and obligations; and the fear with which Ashley regarded his schoolmaster and the bullies of the school was less than the fear with which he regarded his parents. . . . His heart sank within him when the day came for him to go home for the holidays, and it sank within him when he had to return to school. Nor was it only the presence of his parents in the home that made life oppressive. Their absence had exactly the same effect, for then he was left with his sisters to the tender mercies of the servants, and he knew, times without number, what it was to be kept for days without sufficient food until he was pinched with starvation, and could recall many weary nights in winter when

he lay awake all through the long hours, suffering from cold."

(*To be continued.*)

THE AMUSEMENT COLUMN.

I.

Transpositions of Proper Names.

1. At ——, Florida, may be obtained —— —— for washing purposes.

2. Are not the public —— small in the State of ——?

3. In —— you may not see —— —— ——, though you certainly will see many in Pennsylvania.

4. Amid the mountains of —— there is doubtless many a —— —— few worn out —— ——.

5. If you wish to find or to —— —— trees, you need not go to ——.

6. In the city of —— cooks surely know how to —— ——.

(*St. Nicholas.*)

II.

Riddle.

A head have I, though never do I think,
A mouth as well, but with it never drink.
A body, too, is mine of giant growth and strength,
Combining with its force majestic length.
But as to feet of whom I have not one,
Though I am never still but always run.
Ne'er was I known to leave my lowly bed,
Or ope my mouth so that I might be fed.

III.

What is it?

Name the thing described in the following paragraph.

Kingdom, animal, mineral, and vegetable; conducive to travel; dreaded by all with whom it comes in contact; an article of personal adornment; when misplaced, causes terrible disaster; is false, hardened, beaten and fire tested; of various colors, preferred when green and flexible, constantly changed and changing others; its use enjoined by Scripture.

IV.

Historic Scenes.

Name the persons and places mentioned in the following scenes:—

1. A venerable man, dressed in a costume of ancient times, holds in his hand a bowl of some liquid which he is about to drink. As he raises the bowl to his lips, a smile lights up his face, but the persons gathered about him are shedding tears.

2. In a castle on the banks of the river Loire, a king of France is gazing with terror upon the body of a man just killed by his order. The king cries: "How tall he is! He looks taller than when he was alive."

3. A king of ancient times, unable to untie a very complicated knot, cut it through with his sword. This he did that he might fulfil a certain prophecy.

4. A man moved by some deep feeling is leaning on his cross-bow, while a boy runs to him, holding an apple cut in pieces, as if an arrow had passed through it.

5. A Northman, just made a duke and therefore a vassal of a king of France, presents himself to do homage by kissing the king's foot according to the law. Being too proud to do this, the duke has bidden one of his warriors to perform the act for him. But the man, remaining bolt upright, takes hold of the foot and raises it to his mouth, thus throwing the king backward.

6. A glade in a forest. Natives of the land are gathered about a group of three persons. One of these kneels, his hands bound. Another is in the act of throwing herself upon him, the third has swung up above the two a heavy club, which is about to fall.

Answers to Puzzles in September Number.

I. *Progressive Numerical Enigma.*

1. Watch-word. 3. Traitor.
2. Warrant. 4. Uttermost.

II. *Charade.* Fox-glove.

III. *Transpositions.*

1. Sutler, ulster, rustle, lustre.
2. Singer, resign, reigns.
3. Adder, dread, dared.
4. Meta, tame, mate, team.
5. Peal, plea, pale, leap.

IV. Nut-meg.

V. *Shakespeare Characters.*

1. Lear. 4. Orlando.
2. Antony. 5. Bottom.
3. Benedict. 6. Puck.

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.

OBJECTS.

1. To cheer and comfort the lonely and discouraged — not only invalids, but all who need cheer and comfort — by the interchange of letters and by gifts of books and periodicals.

2. To supply in some measure to young people in remote places the lack of schools, by gifts of school-books, letters, and, for those who desire it, correspondence classes on history, the natural sciences, and other interesting branches of study. If any desire to join such classes, they may send their names to our secretary.

3. Also to supply, to some extent, the lack of a church. One good sermon or sermon extract is printed in each number of the paper. These sermons are never doctrinal, but practical, and intended to cheer and comfort the sorrowful and aid in giving a vital religion without regard to sect or creed.

4. An important part of our mission is to mothers of young families, who feel the importance of their sacred charge and are anxious to learn all that can be known to make of their children good, upright, useful men and women,— good citizens of the country,— for which we must all work together if we would make it fulfil its mission among the nations of the world and to the races of mankind. We give books on subjects connected with the training of children, and our columns are open (in our "Mothers' Council") to all who have questions to ask or interesting suggestions to make on topics important to mothers.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

The Travelling Libraries have now become an important part of Cheerful Letter work. In order that this department may be thoroughly organized and systematized, Miss Louise Brown, Box 91, South Framingham, Mass., has kindly consented to take it in charge. Will those interested in these libraries, and desiring information, kindly address Miss Brown as above?

Send requests for books and letters of thanks to the Book Club Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

It would assist us very much if those who give books would send word regularly to our Book Club secretary what books they have given and to whom.

Sometimes an appeal is made in our Book Club, which receives a large response, fifteen or twenty people sending books to the writer. Yet she stands on our record as having received nothing, and others who propose to send to her are encouraged to do so.

The next person on our list may really have received nothing as yet. The only way to equalize the distribution of books is to keep an approximate record of all that are sent. May we hope to secure for this end the co-operation of the Branches?

Checks should be made payable to Mary Louise Catlin.

It is contrary to the rules of the Cheerful Letter Exchange to allow any one to make use of our paper by addressing letters, asking for money, clothing, or other articles, to those whose names are printed in the paper. This prohibition includes requests to borrow money and the offering of articles for sale. The name of any person who infringes this rule will be dropped from our list; and any one who receives a request of this description is desired by our Executive Committee to return no answer, but to enclose the letter at once to our secretary, Miss Langmaid.

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